

# News Release



CHURCHILL DOWNS

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **ASMUSSEN BECOMES ONLY THIRD TRAINER TO WIN 600 RACES AT CHURCHILL DOWNS**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, May 26, 2017)** – Steve Asmussen became only the third trainer in Churchill Downs history to saddle 600 winners at the home of the Kentucky Derby when the Hall of Fame horseman won Friday's second race with 2-year-old filly **She's a Julie**.

Asmussen, 51, only trails fellow Hall of Fame trainer **Bill Mott** (700) and Louisville native **Dale Romans** (685) for most wins as a trainer at Churchill Downs.

She's a Julie (\$8.40), a Kentucky-bred daughter of Elusive Quality who won the five-furlong sprint by 5 ¼ lengths in :58.68, was named in honor of Asmussen's wife Julie, who was diagnosed with neck and throat cancer in September 2015. After months of radiation, chemotherapy and surgery, **Julie Asmussen** was cancer-free in March 2016.

Asmussen, a record 17-time training champion at Churchill Downs, won his first race at the Louisville oval on May 16, 1993 with **Snake Eyes**. He won his 100<sup>th</sup> local race in June 2003; 200<sup>th</sup> in June 2006; 300<sup>th</sup> in July 2008; 400<sup>th</sup> in May 2011; and 500<sup>th</sup> in May 2014.

Among Asmussen's 600 Churchill Downs wins are 61 local stakes triumphs, including two victories in the Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI): **Summerly** in 2005 and **Untapable** in 2014. He also won 2008 Stephen Foster Handicap (GI) with Horse of the Year **Curlin** and last fall's Clark Handicap Presented by Norton Healthcare (GI) with **Gun Runner**.

His longtime Churchill Downs assistant is **Scott Blasi**.

Overall, Asmussen has won 7,644 races and his horses have amassed \$256.7 million from 36,737 starts during a 30-year training career that began at New Mexico's Ruidoso Downs in 1986. The two-time Eclipse Award-winning trainer (2008-09) was enshrined in horse racing's Hall of Fame last August.

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